

CATAWBA COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
ANNEX O
ANIMAL CONTROL AND PROTECTION

I. PURPOSE

To control, protect and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals (domesticated and wild) during an emergency situation that could cause animal suffering.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Any disaster that threatens humans, threatens animals as well and it will be necessary to provide water, shelter, food and first aid.
2. Relocation, shelter, or relief efforts for livestock, wildlife, or domesticated animals may be required.
3. Shelter locations may be required to provide domesticated animal control due to sheltered persons bringing their pets with them.
4. Livestock left in evacuated areas will need to be cared for and provisions will need to be made for reentry.

B. Assumptions

1. Catawba County will be able to expect outside assistance from the State and private sector.
2. Animal protection planning will ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency.

3. Personnel with proper training and protective equipment will be available to reenter evacuated areas for the purpose of rescue or care of livestock or domestic animals.

III CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The sheltering and protection of companion animals and livestock is the responsibility of their owners. Animal owners should plan for animal care during a disaster as they prepare their family preparedness plan.
- B. The Catawba County Animal Control and Shelter Office will be the lead agency for situation assessment and determination of resource needs. As needed the county will protect animals effected by any disaster to include rescue, shelter, control, feeding, and preventive immunization of animals left homeless, lost, or strayed as a result of the disaster. Local SPCA, or similar organizations will be asked to assist in this effort.
- C. Requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals will be routed through the Catawba County Emergency Operations Center.
- D. Wild animals out of their natural habitats that are in danger either to themselves or humans will be handled by the Catawba County Animal Control Office or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission personnel.
- E. Shelters that have been established for disaster victims will not accept domestic animals. However, if an evacuee comes to the shelter with their pet(s), efforts will be made to assist in locating the domestic animal(s) away from the general populace and given proper care.

IV DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The Catawba County Animal Control Office will direct and control all activities related to animal protection and control during a disaster.
- B. As needed the Animal Control Office will coordinate their efforts with State agencies.

V CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

- A. Line of Succession
 - 1. Chief Animal Control Officer
 - 2. Animal Control Officer
 - 3. Director of Emergency Services